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76. (Amended) A method of applying pieces of material to objects, the method comprising:

providing a material supply strip and at least one applicator device capable of applying material from said supply strip to objects, said supply strip initially including a backing having first and second opposing surfaces and pieces of material removably arranged on both of the first and second surfaces, the pieces of material on the first surface having a different size than the pieces of material on the second surface, wherein the pieces of material on the first surface are centered with respect to corresponding pieces of material on the second surface;

applying at least one piece of material from the first surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device; and

applying at least one piece of material from the second surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device.

#### REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 36-71, 74, and 75 without prejudice, and amended claims 1 and 76. Claims 7, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 72 were withdrawn from consideration in view of the prior restriction requirement. Claims 1-26, 28-35, 72, 73, and 76 are pending.

Applicants have amended the specification to add subject matter incorporated by reference at page 1, lines 1-4, from one of Applicants' French priority applications (i.e., FR 9912506). The incorporated subject matter appears in Applicants' French priority application, for example, in claim 14. Applicants file herewith an English-language translation of FR 9912506 (see page 12), and respectfully submit that the

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amendatory material consists of the same material incorporated by reference. Attached hereto is an appendix showing the amendments to the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 14, 16, 20-26, 28-35, 73, and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on various combinations of DE 2 212 995 to Schaefer, U.S. Patent No. 6,306,475 to Stocq et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,143,466 to Moncrieff Baldwin et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,861,986 to Wochner, U.S. Patent No. 6,379,761 to Brandt et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,376,417 to Amano et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,569,540 to Hirose et al.

Applicants have amended claim 1 and claim 76 to recite that "the pieces of material on the first surface" of the supply strip backing have "a **different size** than the pieces of material on the second surface," and that "the pieces of material on the first surface are **centered** with respect to corresponding pieces of material on the second surface." These claim amendments are supported by the original application at page 14 and the amendments to the specification herein.

These additional features help to avoid problems from paper jams that can result in an applicator device used to apply pieces of material from a double-sided supply strip. More particularly, when the pieces of material on opposite sides of the supply strip have different sizes (e.g., smaller pieces on one side) and are centered with respect to one another, as recited in the claims, the supply strip may be manufactured without unduly spreading adhesive, which can cause paper jams in the applicator device. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a method of applying pieces of material from a supply strip having these features.

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With respect to claim 1, Applicants additionally submit that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a material supply strip having a backing and pieces of material "formed of substantially the same material," as recited in claim 1. Although the Examiner has asserted that Stocq et al. discloses this feature, that reference fails to provide any suggestion or motivation to modify the label strip of Schaefer to include that feature. As such, the rejection of claim 1 based on these references must be based on improper hindsight gleaned from the present application. For this additional reason, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12, 14, 16, 20-26, 28-35, and 73 depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 7, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 72 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species. Because each of these claims depends from an allowable generic claim (i.e., claim 1), Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin, examine, and allow each of these claims.

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (202) 408-4197.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the invention, the claims, and the related art, with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action, regardless of whether it was addressed herein.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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## **APPENDIX SHOWING AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATION**

### **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 2-9 of the application, with the following:

-- In an embodiment, the backing includes labels on the first surface positioned substantially opposite to corresponding labels on the second surface. For example, the labels on the first surface may be centered with respect to the labels on the second surface. This configuration is preferable when labels of different format are provided on the first and second surfaces of the backing, because the backing experiences less weakening from the cutting tool during production. Additionally, having the labels on the first surface positioned substantially opposite to corresponding labels on the second surface provides continuity of the labels on the two surfaces, which facilitates the changing of the supply strip.--

### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 76 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of applying pieces of material to objects, the method comprising:

providing a material supply strip and at least one applicator device capable of applying material from said supply strip to objects, said supply strip initially including a backing having first and second opposing surfaces and pieces of material removably arranged on both of the first and second surfaces, the backing and the pieces of material being formed of substantially the same material, wherein the pieces of material

on the first surface have a different size than the pieces of material on the second surface, and wherein the pieces of material on the first surface are centered with respect to corresponding pieces of material on the second surface;

applying at least one piece of material from the first surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device; and

applying at least one piece of material from the second surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device.

76. (Amended) A method of applying pieces of material to objects, the method comprising:

providing a material supply strip and at least one applicator device capable of applying material from said supply strip to objects, said supply strip initially including a backing having first and second opposing surfaces and pieces of material removably arranged on both of the first and second surfaces, the pieces of material on the first surface having a different [format] size than the pieces of material on the second surface, wherein the pieces of material on the first surface are [positioned on the backing substantially opposite] centered with respect to corresponding pieces of material on the second surface [such that outer edges of opposing pieces of material do not line up with one another];

applying at least one piece of material from the first surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device; and

applying at least one piece of material from the second surface of the backing to at least one object with said at least one applicator device.

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